

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) A bacterial growth inhibitor or a bacteriostatic agent against thermo acidophilic bacilli (TAB), comprising a puree or a fruit juice obtained from an acerola (*Malpighia ~~emarginata~~ ~~emarginata~~ DC.*) fruit as an active ingredient thereof.

2. (Original) A bacterial growth inhibitor or bacteriostatic agent against thermo acidophilic bacilli (TAB) according to claim 1, comprising a dried substance of the puree or the fruit juice obtained from the acerola fruit as an active ingredient thereof.

3. (Previously presented) A bacterial growth inhibitor or bacteriostatic agent against thermo acidophilic bacilli (TAB) according to claim 1, wherein the puree or the fruit juice obtained from the acerola fruit is desugared.

4. (Previously presented) A bacterial growth inhibitor or bacteriostatic agent according to claim 1, wherein the thermo acidophilic bacilli (TAB) are bacteria belonging to the genus *Alicyclobacillus*.

5. (Original) A bacterial growth inhibitor or bacteriostatic agent according to claim 4, wherein the bacteria belonging to the genus *Alicyclobacillus* are *Alicyclobacillus acidoterrestris*, *Alicyclobacillus acidiphilus*, or *Alicyclobacillus herbarius*.

6. (Previously presented) A bacterial growth inhibitor or bacteriostatic agent according to claim 1, which is to be added to food or drink.

Preliminary Amendment

7. (Original) A food or drink comprising the bacterial growth inhibitor or bacteriostatic agent of claim 6.

8. (Original) Use of a puree or a fruit juice obtained from an acerola fruit, a desugared substance thereof, or a dried substance thereof, for the purpose of inhibiting or blocking bacterial growth.

9. (Original) A method for manufacturing a food or drink, comprising a step of adding the bacterial growth inhibitor or bacteriostatic agent of claim 6.

10. (Original) A method for inhibiting or blocking a bacterial growth in a food or drink, comprising a step of adding the bacterial growth inhibitor or bacteriostatic agent of claim 6, into the food or drink.

11. (New) A bacterial growth inhibitor or bacteriostatic agent according to claim 2, wherein the thermo acidophilic bacilli (TAB) are bacteria belonging to the genus *Alicyclobacillus*.

12. (New) A bacterial growth inhibitor or bacteriostatic agent according to claim 2, which is to be added to food or drink.